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SECURITY INFORMATION

26 March 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Proposed Legislation to Provide for Migration and Assistance for Escapees from Iron Curtain Countries

1. On this date, the Bureau of Budget convened a meeting to obtain comments regarding subject. The following agencies and departments were represented: Departments of Justice, Labor, Defense, State, Agriculture; Federal Security Agency; Mutual Security Agency; Psychological Strategy Board; and CIA.

2. Mr. Roger Jones, Bureau of Budget, indicated that the legislation would not go to Congress as an administration bill but would be offered informally by the D Commissioners. Mr. Jones stated that the President is very anxious to see some such legislation emerge to meet the problems set forth in his message to Congress on 25 March re migration and escapee assistance.

3. The conference was primarily concerned with Title I of the proposed legislation which pertains to additional immigration into the U.S. The matter under Title II, pertaining to escapee assistance programs, was only briefly considered.

4. After State and MSA expressed opposing concepts for legislation under Title II, Mr. Jones stated that the President apparently insists upon some proposal of the type under Title II. He conceded that strong advice to the contrary might change that attitude. PSB requested a postponement of discussions re Title II pending discussion of the matter by the PSB on 27 March. CIA supported this PSB request. Mr. Jones intimated that the White House staff was determined to obtain executive clearance regarding the bill by 28 March. However, he agreed to defer further consideration as requested.

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